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**ABSTRACT**

5       An improved inter-axle differential is provided that  
eliminates the need for a differential case to retain the  
differential gears. A thrust washer and a retaining ring are  
disposed on each arm of a differential spider to retain a  
corresponding differential gear. The combination of the thrust  
washer and the retaining ring reduces the complexity and the  
weight of conventional inter-axle differential assemblies and  
10       enables improved splash lubrication of the differential.

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